

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A primer set comprising sequences of a first oligonucleotide comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO:1) and a second oligonucleotide comprising 5'-GGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2).
2. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting the presence of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*[[.]] in a test sample, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing DNA from a test sample suspected of containing DNA of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* or a test sample of bacterial cells or microorganisms suspected of containing DNA of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*;
 - (b) amplifying a target sequence of DNA from the test sample using a set of primers including a first primer comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO: 1) and a second primer comprising 5'-GGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2) under amplification conditions; and
 - (c) detecting the presence of [[the]]an amplification product(s) product of the target sequence of DNA as an indication of the presence of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in the test sample.
3. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating or monitoring the efficacy of treatments a treatment utilized to eliminate *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* from a seed lot, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a first test sample from a seed lot suspected of containing DNA of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*;
 - (b) providing DNA from said first test sample or cells or microorganisms from the first test sample suspected of containing *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*;
 - (c) amplifying a target sequence of DNA using a set of primers including a first primer comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO:1) and a second primer

comprising 5'-GGGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2) under amplification conditions;

- (d) detecting the presence of amplification products of the target sequence of DNA as an indication of the presence of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in the first test sample;
- (e) treating the seed lot from which the first test sample was obtained or a portion thereof with a composition to reduce or eradicate *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*, thereby producing a treated seed lot;
- (f) providing a second test sample from the treated seed lot or treated portion thereof;
- (g) providing DNA from said second test sample or cells or microorganisms from the second test sample suspected of containing Acidovorax avenae subsp. citrulli;
- (h) amplifying a target DNA using primers comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO:1) and 5'-GGGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2) under amplification conditions;
- (i) detecting the presence of an [[the]] amplification product(s) product of the target DNA as an indication of the presence of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in the second test sample; and
- (j) comparing the amount of a second amplification product(s) product or absence of said second amplification product in the second test sample to the amount of said amplification products detected in the first test sample in step (d) as an indication of whether or not the treatment said treating step has been successful in reducing or eradicating reduced or eradicated Acidovorax avenae subsp. citrulli in the seed lot.

4. (Currently Amended) A test kit for identifying *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* comprising:

a primer set comprising oligonucleotides having the sequence comprising of a first oligonucleotide comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO:1) and a second oligonucleotide comprising 5'-GGGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2).

5. (New) A method of treating a seed lot to eliminate *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a first test sample from a seed lot suspected of containing DNA of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*;
- (b) providing DNA from said first test sample or cells or microorganisms from the first test sample suspected of containing *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*;
- (c) amplifying a target sequence of DNA using a set of primers including a first primer comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO:1) and a second primer comprising 5'-GGGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2) under amplification conditions;
- (d) detecting the presence of amplification products of the target sequence of DNA as an indication of the presence of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in the first test sample; and
- (e) treating the seed lot from which the first test sample was obtained or a portion thereof with a composition to reduce or eradicate *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*, thereby producing a treated seed lot.